

CAPSULE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey No.: _____ PG:LAU-1-9 (PACS 1.13) Construction Date: _____ circa 1885/ 1960

Name: _____ James A. Clark House

Location: _____ 121 Second Street, Laurel, Prince George's County

Private/Commercial, Apartments/Occupied/Fair/Restricted

Description:

The James A. Clark House is a 2½-story, 6-bay irregular plan Victorian-era house with a prominent front-gable, located on the west side of Second Street in Laurel, Prince George's County. Constructed circa 1885, the building is a cross-plan with several 1-story additions. The structure has a cross-gable roof covered in concrete tiles, with a brick chimney. It is of wood-frame construction covered in aluminum siding, and it has a parged stone foundation. The windows are double-hung wood-sash. The house has a 1-story hipped-roof wrap-around porch on the front and side elevations. The building has been converted for use as apartments. There is a circa 1960 motel building on the rear of the property.

Significance:

The James A. Clark House was built circa 1885 on Lot 20 of Block 56 of the estate of Thomas Talbott. Clark purchased the land in 1884 from Robert Ober. James A. Clark was the editor of the "Free Quill" weekly newspaper, and built the Free Quill Building (PG:LAU-16) behind the house on Washington Boulevard around the same period as the house. James Clark conveyed the property to Mary A.B. Clark in 1892. The house was conveyed to William Milstead, and James Fisher bought the property from the estate of William Milstead in 1905. James Fisher sold the property to Frank and Lillie Mueller in 1919. The trustees of the estates of the Muellers sold the property to the Beaver Creek Company in 1950. The Beaver Creek Company sold the property in 1955 to the S & T Realty Company, who sold it to the current owners in 1982.

Preparer
P.A.C. Spero & Company
May 1998

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form
Montgomery-Prince George's Short-term Congestion Relief

DOE ☐yes ☐no

1. Name: (indicate preferred name)

historic James A. Clark House (preferred)

and/or common Tastee Foods Property II

2. Location:

street & number 121 Second Street

n/a not for publication

city, town Laurel ☐ vicinity of

congressional district

state Maryland

county Prince George's

3. Classification:

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> private
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other:
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	apartments

4. Owner of Property: (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name M & W Tastee Foods of Beltsville, Incorporated

street & number 118 Washington Boulevard

telephone no.:

city, town Laurel

state and zip code Maryland 20707

5. Location of Legal Description

Land Records of Prince George's County

liber 5550

street & number Prince George's County Judicial Center

folio 726

city, town Upper Marlboro

state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

Survey No. PG:LAU-1-9 (PACS 1.13)

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Resource Count: 2

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The James A. Clark House is a 2½-story, 6-bay irregular plan Victorian-era house with a prominent front-gable located on the west side of Second Street in Laurel, Prince George's County. Constructed circa 1885, the building is a cross-plan with several 1-story additions.

The structure has a cross-gable roof covered in concrete tiles, with a brick chimney. It is of wood-frame construction covered in aluminum siding, and it has a parged stone foundation. The windows are double-hung wood-sash. The house has a 1-story hipped-roof wrap-around porch on the front and side elevations. The building has been converted for use as apartments.

The east, or front elevation is composed of the front-gable and the center side-gable wing. There is a wrap-around porch with turned posts and flat-sawn wooded brackets, and a braced railing. The porch is on a raised concrete-block foundation, and has steps leading to the main entrance. There are two entrances on the first story. The first is located in the second bay, on a side addition. The second entrance is located in the last bay, on the center side-gable wing. The fenestration is symmetrical. There is a 2/2 double-hung window in the first bay. The third and fourth bays have tall Queen-Anne sash windows. The fifth bay has a small 1/1 double-hung window. There are five 1/1 double-hung windows on the second story. There are three on the front-gable, and one on either side of the center side-gable wing. There is a window opening with two 8-light casement windows in the gable. There is a lightning rod at the gable peak.

The north elevation has been altered with the 1-story shed roof addition in the rear corner of the intersection of the front and rear wings. The porch extends to this elevation. There is one 1/1 double-hung window on the first story of the front wing. The gable-end of the center cross-gable has two 1/1 double-hung windows. There are paired 1/1 double-hung window on the shed-roof addition. The second story has one 1/1 double-hung window on the front wing, and two 1/1 double-hung windows on the gable-end of the center wing. There is a fixed-light window in the gable.

The west, or rear elevation has been altered with two 1-story shed-roof additions, and a side addition. There is a set of wood steps leading to a second-floor door and porch. The basement level has one barred window. There are two 1/1 double-hung windows on the first story of the main block. There is a 6-light fixed window in the south addition. There is a 1/1 double-hung window in the side addition. The second story has one 1/1 double-hung window and a modern door in the main block. There is a small door on the central cross-gable, which leads onto a small porch.

The south elevation has been altered with a shed roof addition on the rear corner of the intersection of the two wings and a side addition. The shed-roof addition has a door flanked by two 1/1 double-hung windows. The side addition has a band of three 1/1 double-hung windows and a band of five 2/2 double-hung windows. The second story has two 1/1 double-hung windows in the gable-end of the central wing and one 1/1 double-hung window in the front wing. There is a fixed-light window in the gable. The foundation under the side addition is brick.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: James A. Clark House

SURVEY NO.: PG:LAU-1-9 (PACS 1.13)

ADDRESS: 121 Second Street, Laurel, Prince George's County

7. Description (Continued)

There is a circa 1960 motel building at the rear of the property. It is of brick construction with a shed roof, and has 20 units on two floors. The address on the motel is 118 Washington Boulevard.

The James A. Clark House is located on the west side of Second Street and is surrounded by converted residential properties to the north and south, and commercial properties to the east and west. There is an alley on the north side of the property which connects Second Street and Washington Boulevard. The setting is commercial, though this area was historically a low-density residential neighborhood in the City of Laurel.

8. Significance

Survey No. PG:LAU-1-9 (PACS 1.13)

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
__prehistoric	__archaeology-prehistoric	__Community planning	__landscape architecture	__religion
__1400-1499	__archeology-historic	__conservation	__law	__science
__1500-1599	__agriculture	__economics	__literature	__sculpture
__1600-1699	__architecture	__education	__military	__social/
__1700-1799	__art	__engineering	__music	humanitarian
X 1800-1899	__commerce	__exploration/settlement	__philosophy	__theater
__1900-	__communication	__industry	__politics/government	__transportation
		__invention	__other (specify)	

Specific dates circa 1885, 1960

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
 and/or
Applicable Exceptions: A B C D E F G

Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The James A. Clark House was built circa 1885 on Lot 20 of Block 56 of the estate of Thomas Talbott. Clark purchased the land in 1884 from Robert Ober. James A. Clark was the editor of the "Free Quill" weekly newspaper, and built the Free Quill Building (PG:LAU-16) behind the house on Washington Boulevard around the same period as the house. James Clark conveyed the property to Mary A.B. Clark in 1892. The house was conveyed to William Milstead, and James Fisher bought the property from the estate of William Milstead in 1905. James Fisher sold the property to Frank and Lillie Mueller in 1919. The trustees of the estates of the Muellers sold the property to the Beaver Creek Company in 1950. The Beaver Creek Company sold the property in 1955 to the S & T Realty Company, who sold it to the current owners in 1982.

The James A. Clark House is located in Laurel. Laurel is located on land originally patented to Richard Snowden in 1715 as "Snowden's New Birmingham Manor" in Prince George's County. "Snowden's New Birmingham Manor" was approximately 1214 hectares (3000 acres) from Old Columbia Pike to the present city of Laurel, and from south of Greencastle and Van Dusen Roads to north of Sandy Spring Road. The 1715 patent increased the already substantial Snowden land holdings, and later additions to Snowden land eventually covered 3749 hectares (9265 acres) by 1743. (Cook 1976: 270-271).

The Snowden family had established a grist mill at Laurel about 1810. In 1824, the grist mill was adapted to spin cotton yarn that was shipped to textile mills. In 1835, the mill was converted back to a grist mill. Snowden family members and the O.C. Tiffany company of Baltimore established the Patuxent Cotton Manufacturing Company. Factory buildings were built along the river, and the town of Laurel developed as a manufacturing town along Main Street running between the factory and the B&O Railroad station (Prince George's County 1974: 283; Prince George's County Historical Society 1980: 37). Laurel became the largest town in the county. The textile mill provided the basis for Laurel's economy into the twentieth century. When textile output began to decline early in the century, Laurel began to develop as a suburb for both Washington and Baltimore. Located halfway between the two cities, Laurel was accessible to commuters by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad and by U.S. 1 (Prince George's County 1974: 284).

The James A. Clark House is an example of an irregular-plan Victorian house. Houses of the Victorian era were meant to express the individuality of the owner and all the activities that might be taking place inside. They were generally two or three stories tall with multiple roof lines, an irregular shape and exuberant ornamentation. Because Victorian society emphasized

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

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ADDRESS: 121 Second Street, Laurel, Prince George's County

8. Significance (Continued)

formality, the dwellings also had closed plans in which doors, halls and vestibules separated the rooms. Due to their size and complexity, Victorian-era dwellings were usually built only by the upper and upper-middle classes. The Victorian irregular plan appeared in the Agricultural-Industrial Transition Period and the Industrial/Urban Dominance Period.

There is also a circa 1960 motel building on the property. After World War II, the term "motor court" was replaced by "motel". By that time, an growing share of the industry was controlled by large companies who operated hundred of motels mostly located along interchanges of interstate highways. The new post-war motels exhibited the same bare-bones, stripped down utilitarian appearance common to most roadside businesses of that period. A neon sign with the word "Motel" was usually the only carryover from the more theatrical advertising of the pre-War period (Liebs 1988:171-184).

National Register Evaluation:

Constructed circa 1885, the James A. Clark House is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The property is not eligible under Criterion A, as research conducted indicates no association with any historic events or trends significant in the development of national, state, or local history. Historic research indicates that the property has no association with persons who have made specific contributions to history, and therefore, it does not meet Criterion B. It is not eligible under Criterion C, as it is an example of a Victorian-era house that has been highly altered in order to accommodate changing uses. Many of the windows have been replaced, there have been numerous additions with subsequent fenestration changes, and the house has been covered in aluminum siding. A 2-story motel building has been constructed at the rear of the property. The property no longer retains its integrity of design, materials, workmanship, setting, feeling, or association. Finally, the structure has no known potential to yield important information, and therefore, is not eligible under Criterion D.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility Not Recommended X

Comments

Reviewer, OPS: Debra Date: 9/15/99

Reviewer, NR Program: B. Kuntz Date: 9/15/99

9. Major Bibliographical References Survey No. PG:LAU-1-9(PACS 1.13)

See Attached

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____
Quadrangle name Laurel, MD Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Susan L. Taylor
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organization	P.A.C. Spero & Company	date	May 1998
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street & number	40 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Suite 412	telephone	(410) 296-1635
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city or town	Baltimore	state	Maryland
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The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposed only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCP/DHCD
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
(410) 514-7600

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: James A. Clark House

SURVEY NO.: PG:LAU-1-9 (PACS 1.13)

ADDRESS: 121 Second Street, Laurel, Prince George's County

9. Major Bibliographical References (Continued)

Brugger, Robert A. 1988. Maryland, A Middle Temperament 1634-1980. Baltimore and London: Johns Hopkins University Press.

Cook, William G. 1976. Montpelier & the Snowden Family. Privately Printed.

Hiebert, Ray Eldon, and Richard K. MacMaster. 1976. A Grateful Remembrance: the Story of Montgomery County, Maryland. Rockville, Maryland: Montgomery County Government and the Montgomery County Historical Society.

Hopkins, G.M. [1879] 1975. Atlas of 15 Miles Around Washington including County of Prince George's, Maryland. Reprint, Riverdale, Maryland: Prince George's County Historical Society.

Land Records of Prince George's County, Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

"The Laurel Factory." News and Notes from the Prince George's County Historical Society. (July 1980): 38-40. (First published in The American Farmer. Baltimore, Maryland, August 1845.)

Liebs, Chester H. 1985. Mainstreet to Miracle Mile: American Roadside Architecture. Boston: Little Brown & Co.

Poe, Gertrude L. 1970. Laurel, Maryland: Centennial Souvenir Booklet. Laurel, Maryland: The News Leader.

Prince George's County Community Renewal Program. 1974. The Neighborhoods of Prince George's County. Upper Marlboro, Maryland: Prince George's County Government.

Tindall, George Brown. 1984. America: A Narrative History. 2 vols. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc.

Virta, Alan. 1984. Prince George's County: A Pictorial History. Rev. 1991. Virginia Beach: The Donning Company Publishers.

Virta, Alan. "The Pretty, Rosy-Cheeked Girls of Laurel." News and Notes from the Prince George's County Historical Society. (July 1980): 37.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

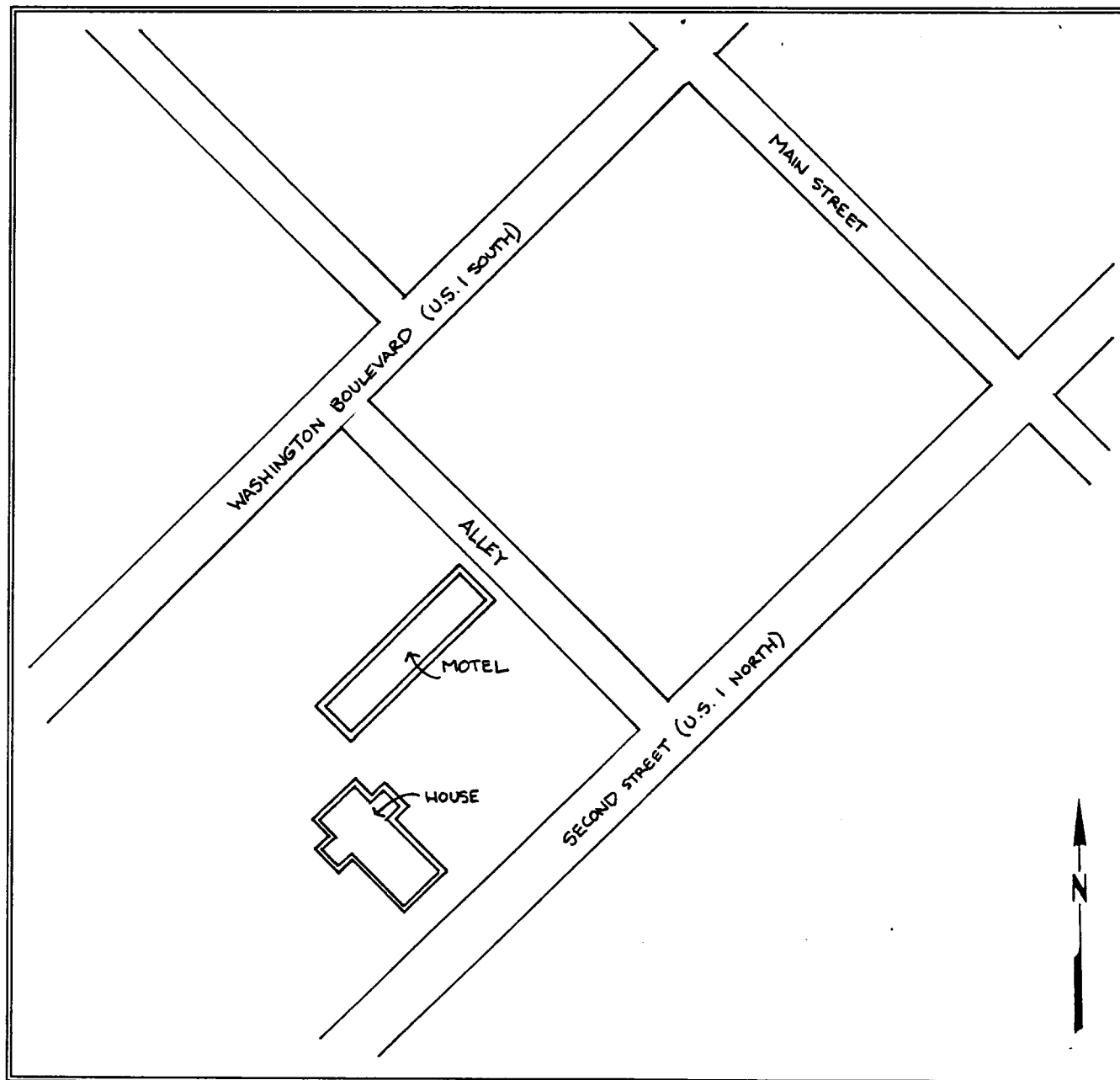
RESOURCE NAME: James A. Clark House

SURVEY NO.: PG:LAU-1-9 (PACS 1.13)

ADDRESS: 121 Second Street, Laurel, Prince George's County

10. Geographical Data (Continued)

Resource Sketch Map:



CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: James A. Clark House

SURVEY NO.: PG:LAU-1-9 (PACS 1.13)

ADDRESS: 121 Second Street, Laurel, Prince George's County

Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data Sheet

Historic Context:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period Theme (s): Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture

RESOURCE TYPE:

Category (see Section 3 of survey form): Buildings

Historic Environment (urban, suburban, village, or rural): Village

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Private Residence

Known Design Source (write none if unknown): None

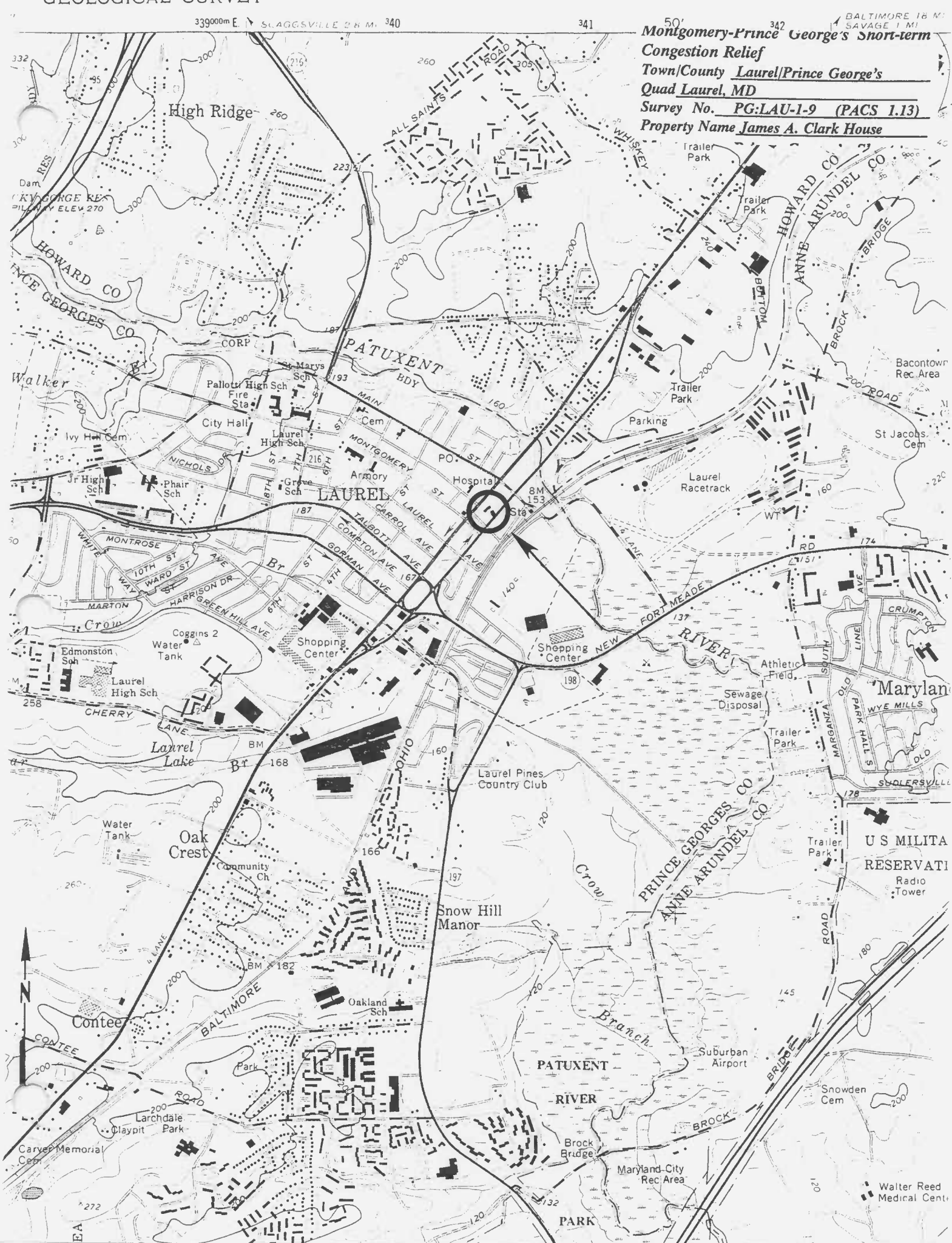
Preparer
P.A.C. Spero & Company
May 1998

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

339000m E 340

341

50' 342
 Baltimore 18 M
 Savage 1 M
Montgomery-Prince George's Short-term
Congestion Relief
 Town/County Laurel/Prince George's
 Quad Laurel, MD
 Survey No. PG:LAU-1-9 (PACS 1.13)
 Property Name James A. Clark House



U S MILITA
 RESERVATI
 Radio
 Tower

Walter Reed
 Medical Cent



- 1 PG: Lau-1-9
- 2 James A. Clark House
- 3 Pioneer House, C. Hd
- 4 Susan C. Clark
- 5 5198
- 6 Mid 80s
- 7 N elevation
- 8 1 of 10

2000 1000 1000



- 1 B's Law - 1.9
- 2 James O Clark House
- 3 Prince Georges Co. Md
- 4 Susan Taylor
- 5 5/15/8
- 6 Md 54120
- 7 NE corner
- 8 2 of 10

11/11/12/1988



1 PG-Car 1-9

2 James A. Clark House

3 Prince Georges Co. Md

4 Susan Taylor

5 5/29

6 Md St W's

7 C. Clouston

8 3-2-12

2000-01-12-0000



- 1 P. Lau 1-9
- 2 James A. Clark House
- 3 Prince George's Co. Md
- 4 Susan Taylor
- 5 5/97
- 6 Md SHPO
- 7 SE corner
- 8 4 of 10

2140 11/12/2009



1. 18: Jan. 1-9
2. Jan. 10. Clark House
3. Prince George's Co., Md
4. Susan Taylor
5. 3/77
6. 1715 SHPO
7. S. elevation
8. 5 of 10

2014 MAR 20 2015



- 1 Pt. Can-1-9
- 2 James - A. Clark House
- 3 Prince Georges Co Md
- 4 Susan Taylor
- 5 3/28
- 6 Md SHPO
- 7 SW corner
- 8 65-10

27-11-1988



- 1 Pt 1a-1-9
- 2 James A. Green House
- 3 Prince George's Co. Md
- 4 Susan Taylor
- 5 5/10/9
- 6 Md SHPO
- 7 W. elevation
- 8 1 of 10

PA 81111 1000000



- 1 PE : Can - 1-9
- 2 James B Clark House
- 3 Prince George's Co, Md
- 4 Susan Taylor
- 5 E 178
- 6 11th St NW
- 7 NW corner
- 8 8 of 10

11th St NW



- 1 PG - Jan. 1-9
- 2 James A. Clark House
- 3 Prince George's Co. Md
- 4 Susan Taylor
- 5 5-27
- 6 Md SHPS
- 7 Md - Elevation
- 8 9 of 10

ENH NIN 1200 B-1



- 1 PG-! Lau-1-9
- 2 James A. Clark House
- 3 Prince Georges Co, Md
- 4 Susan Taylor
- 5 5/98
- 6 Md STD
- 7 Motel - NW elevations
- 8 10 of 10

2025 0221 N 1220568